

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 02276 211053Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8342

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 02276

FOR EUR/WE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PEPR, MT, US
SUBJECT: EXCESS PROPERTY PROCUREMENT ASSISTANCE TO
- THE GOM

REFS: A) STATE 180400, B) VALLETTA 2027, C) VALLETTA 1785,
- D) STATE 142793, E) VALLETTA 1636

1. WE DON'T FIND REFTTEL A VERY ILLUMINATING (QUITE ASIDE FROM THE DISAPPOINTMENT THAT WILL BE EXPRESSED BY THE GOM WHEN WE TELL THEM THAT ONLY ONE ITEM OF THOSE REQUESTED BY THE GOM FOR PROCUREMENT UNDER EPP IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE). SEVERAL QUESTIONS ARE LEFT UNANSWERED. COULD THE DEPARTMENT CLARIFY THE FOLLOWING:

- A. WERE ALL THE ITEMS ON BOTH THE GOM'S LIST OF JUNE 2 (REF E) AND JUNE 14 (REFS B & C) REVIEWED AND SUBMITTED FOR A COMPUTER CHECK? SOME EIGHTEEN OF THE ITEMS ON THE JUNE 2 LIST WERE TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THE MARCH, 1978, AID/EPD AVAILABILITY LISTING. IS INVENTORY TURNOVER ON THE LATTER LISTINGS SO RAPID THAT ONLY ONE OF THESE ITEMS REMAINS AVAILABLE, OR DOES THE GOM HAVE SO LOW A PRIORITY ON THE LIST OF PROSPECTIVE EP RECIPIENTS THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF ITEMS LISTED BY AID/EPD ARE IN FACT NOT LIKELY EVER TO BECOME AVAILABLE TO THE GOM? AS REQUESTED
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IN REF B, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF ANY OF THE EQUIPMENT IN THE GOM LISTS OF JUNE 14 NORMALLY BECOME AVAILABLE UNDER THE EPP (AND THUS APPEAR ON EPD AVAILABILITY LISTINGS). I NEED SUCH INFORMATION TO HELP DEAL WITH WHAT WILL BE A VERY NEGATIVE GOM REACTION TO THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF A.

- B. REF A MAKES NO MENTION OF THE BULLDOZERS AND CONCRETE MIXERS THAT, ACCORDING TO REF D, HAVE BEEN PUT ON "HOLD" FOR THE GOM PENDING THE COMPLETION OF THE SECTION 607A DETERMINATION PROCESS. PLEASE CONFIRM THE STATUS OF THIS EQUIPMENT.

- C. HAS AGIUS BEEN INFORMED OF ANY OF THIS?

2. AS FOR PARA 2, REF A, WE ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS THE GOM TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION NECESSARY SO THAT WE MAY REQUEST THE NECESSARY SECTION 607A DETERMINATION. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY ADDITIONAL LISTS BEING PREPARED BY THE GOM.

3. IN PRESSING THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ABOVE INFORMATION, I HOPE EUR/WE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT MY PURPOSE IS TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO THE GOM WITHIN THE LIMITS OF PRESENT POLICY. AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP THAT WE GO THE EXTRA MILE ON THIS ISSUE; THAT INCLUDES GIVING THE MALTESE A FACTUAL RESPONSE AS TO AVAILABILITY, HOWEVER NEGATIVE IT MAY BE, AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. LAINGEN

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